



December 2003

VOMARC NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS
MEETING

DON'T DRIVE TO GLEN ELLEN! THE MEETING'S AT THE SONOMA
FIRE STATION!

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

Had a great time at the annual Xmas party. Congratulations to Jan and Eileen for being the prize winners. Take a look at our website for some pictures taken by Ken, N6KM.

There is good news and bad news concerning the Broadband over the Power Line proposal. The good news ; FEMA has expressed "grave concerns" that BPL could "severely impair FEMA's mission-essential HF radio operations in areas service by BPL technology. The bad news: The Washington, DC, suburb of Manassas, Virginia will go ahead this month with plans to

inaugurate BPL service in four subdivisions--a total of some 2100 homes. Manassas--with a population of nearly 35,000--hopes to be the first community in the US to deploy BPL citywide.

There is more information on the web at www.arrl.org/tis/info/html/plc/ and if you like to support the league's efforts to stop BPL go to www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl.

Our next meeting is on the 21st. The location is the Sonoma Fire House and our program will be a talk on, "Software Defined Radios" presented by Stan, NJ6E. I have sat in on a couple of talks on

this
subject at Pacificon and found it
to be very interesting. This may
be the future of ham radio.

I will be traveling by car to W7
land, Arizona, and will try to get
some APRS going. If you go to
<http://findu.com/>, I might show
up. I must add here that this
website is pretty complicated.

Steady progress is being made
by the Eagle group. Good data
was taken at Mike's house a
couple of weeks ago. The latest
Mars lander further highlights
the area of space travel and all
the excitement it brings. Who
knows, the lander might find a
Martian ham shack.

Hope to see you at the next
meeting.
Turn on the rig, put out some
radio waves and who can say
where they might be heard.

73, Jim

VOMARC MINUTES
DECEMBER 17, 2003

This month's meeting, held at
Little Switzerland, was the
annual dinner and installation of
officers. There were 30 people
present.

Officers were introduced as
follows:

Jim Hill, K6UUW, President
George Maurer, K6ITE, Vice
President
Ken McTaggart, N6KM,
Treasurer
Joan Brady, W6WXU, Secretary

Appointees are as follows:

Mike Miller, WB5TMH, Radio
officer
Eileen Adams, KG6QNT,
Membership Chairman
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR,
Newsletter Editor
Jan Bush, AE6FQ, Web master

Hope I didn't miss anyone.

Partial list of programs for next
year was announced. The
programs promise to be very
interesting and enlightening.

Thank you letters were given to
Liberty Ride participants.

The Grand Raffle was held.
Prize winners are: Eileen
Adams, KG6QNT, won the new
ARRL Handbook. Jan Bush,
AE6FQ, won the \$100 Grand
prize.

Entry for the raffle is by meeting
attendance during the year. For
each meeting attended, there is
one chance to win. The more
meetings attended, the more
chances of winning.

Meeting was adjourned and
desert served.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Brady, W6WXU

For Sale:

Two (2) Astron RS-10 12 VDC
power supplies, 10A ICAS, 7.5A
CCS in like
new condition, \$40.00 each
Ken N6KM 938-2626, 483-3452

Wanted to buy:

This is a strange request. It all started a long time ago, in a land far away...

No, that's not right. Let's see, let me check my notes.

Ah, yes, here they are.

To make a short story long, I was wandering around E-bay and happened to type in a search for "telegraph keys". I'll be darned if I didn't find a bunch, including some old telegraph keys and sounders from actual railroad and Western Union telegraph land lines. I saw several sell for twenty to thirty dollars, so I put in a bid on one. Darned if someone didn't outbid me by fifty cents. So I bid on another one. This time some rat outbid me by a dollar.

I stared strategizing. The next time I put my bid in five minutes before the auction ended. Dang, the guy was waiting for me and cut me out again. Two more came up, so I waited until the last minute, and don't you know, the loathsome sneaks got two more bids in before the last five seconds.

Well, my doctor tells me I'm going to have a stroke or heart attack if I keep up this aggravation, so I decided to put the word out and see if any of our VOMARC members happen to have a closet full of old telegraph keys and/or sounders they were thinking of selling. If so, just give me a call and let

me know what you have and how much you are charging.

Why, you might ask, do I want one? Well, after my frustrating E-bay experience, it's just boiled down to a matter of the principal of the thing. I decided I just had to have one for my collection, and doggone if I wasn't going to get one.

I have to admit, though, I haven't even worked Morse code for a couple of years.

73, Darrel, WD6BOR
996-4494 or wd6bor@vom.com

And finally, a little something from Steve, KD6KVY:

Here are two little trivia tidbits that can fill in those annoying little blank spots in some future Wireless layout.

'What is "Jansky noise?" - "Jansky noise" is the name given to those radio signals that emanate from the center of the Milky Way. Bell Telephone Labs engineer Karl Jansky discovered the noise in 1931 while searching for the source of static that was interfering with telephone calls. His discovery marked the beginning of radio astronomy.

'During the Vietnam War, what toy did U.S. soldiers toss over tree branches when they needed a makeshift antenna?' - A Slinky. The soldiers discovered the toy made a great antenna when draped over branches.

Well, there you have it for another thrilling monthly newsletter. Remember, if you feel faint while reading this, sit down, put your head between your knees, put the newsletter on the floor, and read it from there.

Just don't let anyone see you.

Next month:
What to do if reading the VOMARC newsletter makes you nauseous.

Ed.

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 8 EDITION 1

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club - W6AJF

Frank C. Jones - W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW - President
George Maurer, K6ITE- Vice-Pres
Joan Brady, W6WXU - Secretary
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - Treasurer
Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, Membership Chair
Mike Miller, WB6TMH - Radio Officer
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - ACS
Jan Bush, AE6FQ - Webmeister
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR - Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge, and the Sonoma Fire Station, 630 2nd Street West, Sonoma. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE:

<http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

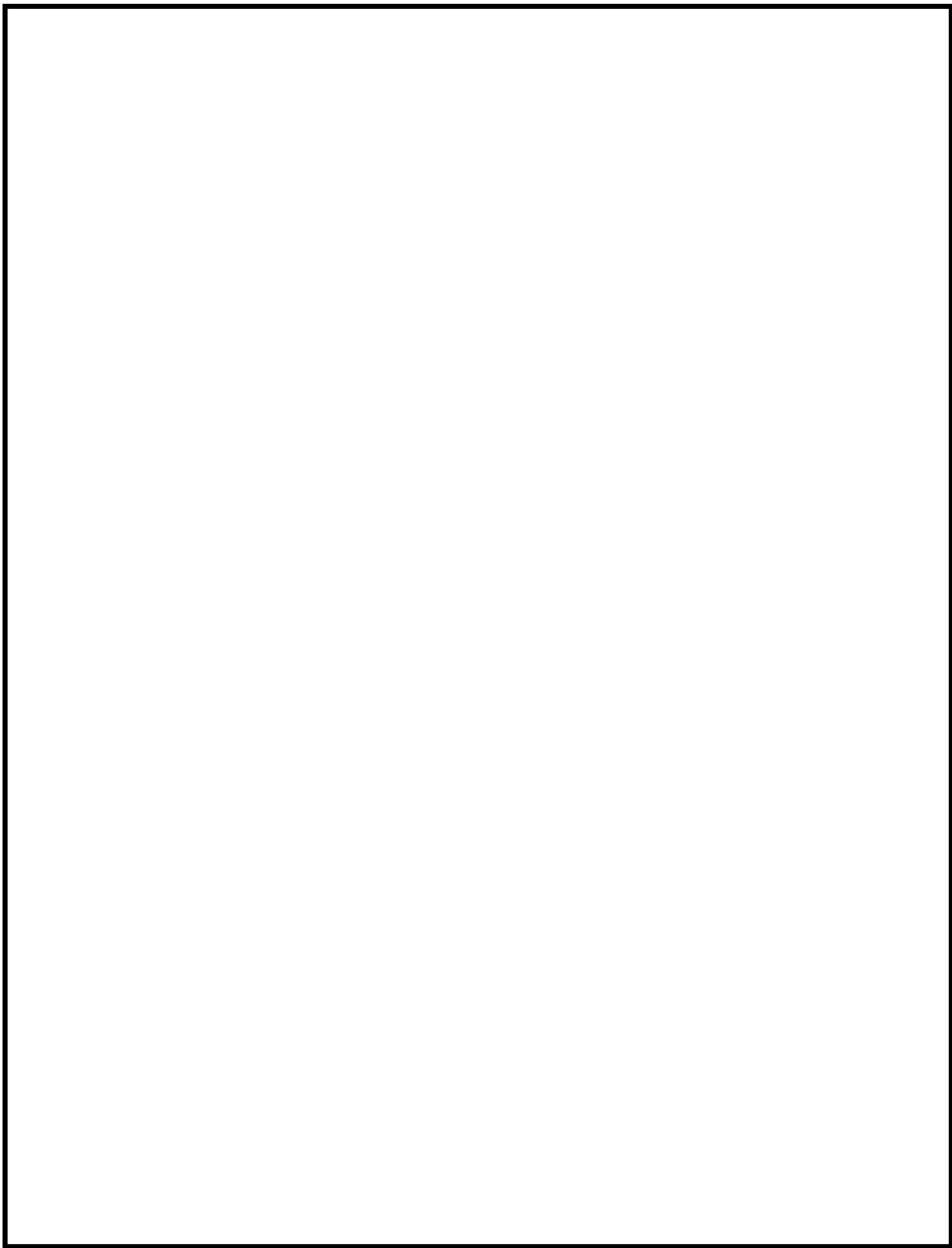
PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as "SNV1EC". "SNVGW" can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is "SNVND".

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Issa's Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:
WD6BOR@VOM.COM

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476



**Valley of the Moon
ARC
1496 Nut Tree Lane
Sonoma, CA 95470**

**NOTICE!!! THE JANUARY VOMARC MEETING IS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE
SONOMA FIRE STATION, 630 SECOND STREET WEST.
CU THERE!**

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2004 Membership Dues: \$10/year individual; \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: \$ _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. It tells you when your VOMARC dues are due. Dues may be mailed to Ken N6KM, or Jim K6UUW, 1496 Nut Tree Lane, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the January meeting. If there is any mistake, please do not shoot the messenger, email Eileen KG6QNT at Eileen@vom.com. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**